

Special points of interest:

Native Plant List

Eastern Small-Footed

Bat

Native American

PowWow

Requirements for Underbrushing

In this issue:

Underbrushing Regs

Native Plants 3

NC Wildlife News 8

Species of Concern 14

October 2009

Issue 9

Lake Notes

W. KERR SCOTT DAM AND RESERVOIR

PLANS FOR NATIONAL PUBLIC LANDS DAY

The staff at W. Kerr Scott Lake is preparing for a big National Public Lands Day to be held on Saturday, October 9, 2009. North Carolina Big Sweep will also be part of the NPLD activities. We hope the volunteer group for Shoreline Cleanup will be the largest ever.

In the coming weeks, rangers will be identifying sections of shoreline which need to be cleaned and on the morning of NPLD, the areas will be assigned to groups of volunteers. Ranger Bryant Curry is heading up this effort. If dock owners would like to come out with pontoon boats to help with the cleanup, we would greatly appreciate your help! Also, if you would like to leave shoreline litter in sturdy bags on your docks, rangers and volunteers will pick up the trash on October 10th. We can accept tires, but no driftwood.



Landscaping park areas is another activity you can volunteer for on NPLD.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR THE EE CENTER NATIVE TRAIL

The Native Trail which will be part of the Environmental Education Center is coming along, but slowly. Plans are being made to work on the trail on National Public Lands Day. Volunteers are needed! Grass and weeds need to be sprayed and/ or removed; gravel needs to be spread on the trail and native species planted. If you would like to volunteer before or on National Public Lands Day, please contact Park Ranger Brad Carey who is the lead in getting the trail completed. After visiting the new environmental center, visitors will have the opportunity to stroll through this native species trail. For the plan; see Page 4 of this newsletter.

UNDERBRUSHING PERMITS

Underbrushing is defined as the selective cutting and continued control of woodland understory vegetation (weeds, vines, briars, etc.) and the thinning of tree saplings, as stipulated in the terms of the permit. Shoreline Use Permits for removal of underbrush are allowed on shorelines classified as Limited Development, and in special circumstances in areas classified as Protected Shoreline. Regardless of the shoreline classification, the Operations Manager may add special restrictions to the permit to protect environmental features such as cultural resource sites, highly erodible slopes, or unique vegetative species. The following specific conditions or terms apply to all Shoreline Use Permits authorizing underbrushing:

- 1. Underbrushing can be authorized to adjacent landowners or renters having legal access to the public property covered under the permit. Generally, only one underbrushing area per individual will be authorized. However, more than one area may be allowed provided it is associated with an existing dwelling or one under construction.
- 2. Upon approval of this plan the maximum permit area size limit of a new underbrush area is limited to a width of 50 feet. Generally this area runs 25 feet on either side of the dock location. The underbrush area will be marked in the field by the ranger using paint spots or markers. All existing underbrushing areas currently larger than the 50 foot width requirement issued prior to this current plan will be grandfathered until change in permit holder occurs.
- 3. The Corps reserves the right to re-vegetate the shoreline when tree spacing falls below acceptable minimum stocking level of one tree, of any diameter, every 15 feet. This might occur in the case of timber encroachments, insect and disease attacks, fire, storms, or other natural disasters. These events may require the planting of vegetation and trees within the designated underbrushing area. If plantings occur the permittee is required to protect these trees from future cuttings. Options available to mitigate illegal or improper vegetation removal include:
- a. Designate area a restoration area with no future cutting.
- b. Permittee replant trees at their expense.
- c. Corps/contractor replants trees at permittee expense.
- d. Issue citation and/or timber appraisal for payment by permittee.
- 4. New underbrush areas established after the approval of this plan require that native trees, seedlings, or saplings be maintained at a spacing of no less than 15 feet on center regardless of tree diameter. If tree stocking falls below this minimum level then additional trees will be established. This will occur by planting or through natural regeneration.
- 5. Under no circumstances will native ornamental trees or shrubs be cut without prior approval of the Operations Manager. Native ornamental vegetation is defined as to dogwood, holly, redbud, wild azalea, rhododendron, mountain laurel or any species determined to be threatened or endangered by federal or state agencies.
- 6. Cutting of healthy trees to obtain a view is prohibited. Payment of assessed damage and restoration may be required to correct any
- underbrushing in excess of that allowed by the permit. Underbrushing violations may be cause for termination of other permits, including floating facility. In areas where unauthorized underbrushing or clearing has occurred, the government may limit or prohibit underbrushing permits. This prohibition may continue until the area has been restored and reevaluated by the Operations Manager.
- 7. Within the underbrush area, vegetation, having a stump diameter less than three inches (measured within one inch of ground level) may be cut, provided it is not protected under a special condition or it is required to meet the 15' x 15' spacing requirement.
- 8. Within the designated underbrush area weedeaters, and chain saws can be utilized to cut brush provided they do not damage the remaining vegetation. The use of bush hogs and other heavy equipment, such as lawnmowers, tractors and bulldozers, is not permitted on government property except in unusual circumstances and with approval of the Operations Manager. Vegetation cut on government property will be disposed of by the permittee.
- 9. Within an underbrush area, the permittee will delineate the government property line, as surveyed and marked by the government, in a clear but unobtrusive manner in accordance with this plan. This delineation may include, but is not limited to, boundary plantings of approved species and fencing on private land. The delineation will be accomplished at no cost to the government.
- 10. Vegetation cannot be cut to establish a new roadway within the underbrush area. Existing roads must be maintained under an appropriate "letter of authorization".
- 11. The furnished Shoreline Use Permit tag must be posted at the location designated by the Operations Manager. When an underbrushing permit is associated with a dock the permit tag is placed on the dock.
- 12. New establishment of grass lawns is not allowed, or any activity which creates the appearance of private ownership and control of public lands
- 13. A permit for underbrushing may be authorized up to 100 feet from a residence to provide a reasonable degree of fire safety protection. This allows permittees to cut dead trees, remove thick brush, and dispose of dead limbs and other potential fire hazard materials. It does not allow the cutting of live trees or the removal of all other native vegetation to obtain a view and no mowing is authorized in this area. In protected areas, the Corps may deny the permit in order to protect environmental or physical characteristics for which the area was designated as protected. The removal of dead trees and limbs and other potential fire hazard materials may be removed if authorized by the Operations Manager.
- 14. Any tree (s) or limb (s) (alive, dead or diseased) located on public property, which threatens or may come to threaten the permittee's personal property may be removed after the permittee receives approval from the Operations Manager or his representative. The permittee will be responsible for the costs of removal.

NATIVE PLANT LIST

EXHIBIT 6: NATIVE PLANT LIST Tall trees (more than 30 ft)

				Wildlife
Latin Name	Common Name	Soil/Light	Region	Value
Acer rubrum	Red Maple	W-D/F-P	M, P, CP	S
Acer saccharum	Sugar Maple	M/F-S	M	S
Aesculus flava	Yellow Buckeye	M/P-S	M	100
Betula lenta	Sweet Birch	M-D/F-S	M	S, L
Carya glabra	Pignut Hickory	D/F-S	M, P, CP	S, L
Carya ovata	Shagbark Hickory	M-D/F-S	M, P, CP	S, L
Carya tomentosa	Mockernut Hickory	D/F-S	M, P, CP	S, L
Diospyros virginiana	Persimmon	M-D/F-P	M, P, CP	F
Fagus grandifolia	American Beech	M/P-S	M, P, CP	S
Fraxinus americana	White Ash	M/F-S	M, P	S, L
Fraxinus pennsylvanica	Green Ash	W-D/F-P	M, P, CP	S, L
llex opaca	American Holly	W-D/F-S	M,P,CP	C,F,N,L
Juniperus virginiana	Eastern Red Cedar	M-D/F-P	M, P, CP	C, F, L
Liquidambar styraciflua	Sweetgum	W-M/F-P	M, P, CP	S
Liriodendron tulipifera	Yellow Poplar	M/F-P	M, P, CP	S, H, N, L
Magnolia acuminata	Cucumber Tree	M/F-P	M, P	S F
Nyssa sylvatica	Blackgum	D/F-P	M, P, CP	
Oxydendrum arboreum	Sourwood	D/F-S	M, P, CP	N
Pinus echinata	Shortleaf Pine	D/F-P	M, P, CP	C, S, L
Pinus strobus	Eastern White Pine	D/F	M, P	C, S
Platanus occidentalis	Sycamore	M/F-P	M, P, CP	S
Prunus serotina	Black Cherry	M-D/F	M, P, CP	F, N, L
Quercus alba	White Oak	M-D/F-P	M, P, CP	S, L
Quercus coccinea	Scarlet Oak	D/F-P	M, P	S, L
Quercus falcata	Southern Red Oak	M-D/F-P	M, P, CP	S, L
Quercus rubra	Red Oak	M/F-P	M, P	S, L
Quercus stellata	Post Oak	D/F	M, P, CP	S, L
Quercus velutina	Black Oak	M-D/F-P	M, P, CP	S, L
Robinia pseudoacacia	Black Locust	M-D/F-P	M, P	S, L
Sassafras albidum	Sassafras	M-D/F-P	M, P, CP	F, L
Tilia americana	Basswood	M/F-P	M, P, CP	S, N, L
Tsuga canadensis	Eastern Hemlock	M/P-S	M, P	C, S
Ulmus alata	Winged Elm	M-D/F-P	M, P, CP	S, L
Ulmus americana	American Elm	W-M/F-P	M, P, CP	S, L

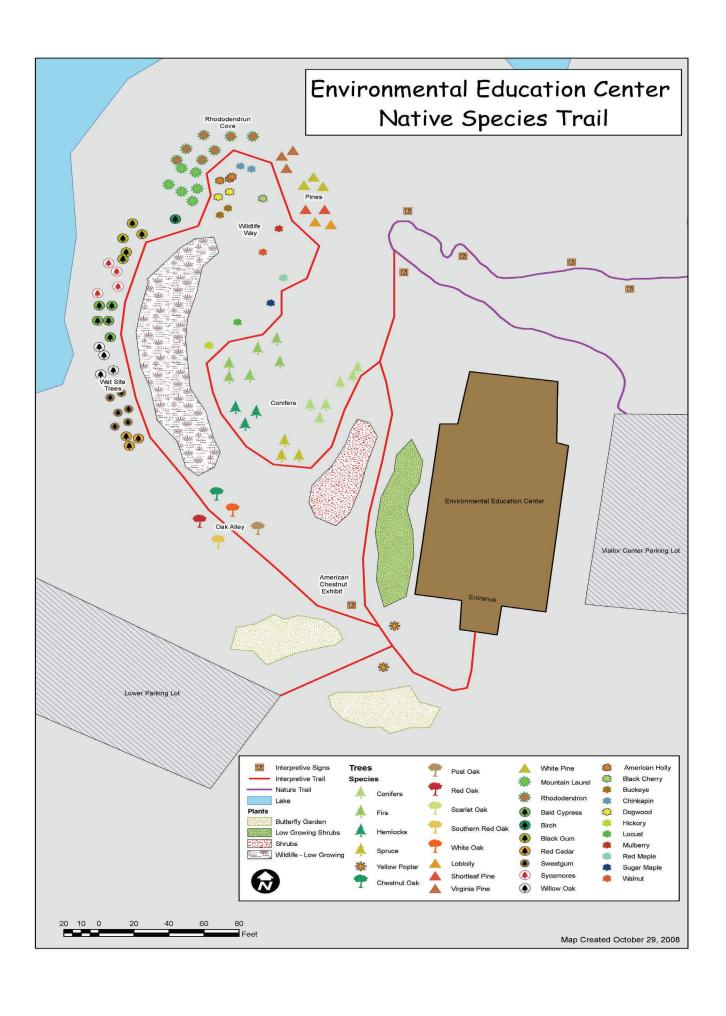
Small trees/shrubs (10-30 ft)

	1005 (10-50	5 (10-30 IL)		
Latin Name	Common Name	Soil/Light	Region	Wildlife Value
Alnus serrulata	Alder	W-M/F-P	M, P, CP	S, L
Amelanchier arborea	Serviceberry	M-D/F-S	M, P	F, N, L
Amelanchier laevis	Allegheny Servicebern	M-D/F-P	M	F, N, L
Aralia spinosa	Devil's Walking Stick	M/F-P	M, P, CP	F, N
Asimina triloba	Pawpaw	M/F-S	M, P, CP	F, L
Carpinus caroliniana	Ironwood	W-M/P-S	M, P, CP	
Castanea pumila	Chinquapin	D/F-P	M, P, CP	S, L S
Cercis canadensis	Eastern Redbud	M-D/F-P	M, P	S, N, L
Chionanthus virginicus	Fringetree	M-D/F-P	M, P, CP	F
Cornus amomum	Silky Dogwood	W-M/P-S	M, P, CP	F, N, L
Cornus florida	Flowering Dogwood	M-D/F-P	M, P, CP	F, N, L
Crataegus spp.	Hawthorn	M/F-S	M, P, CP	F, H, N, I
Halesia tetraptera	Carolina Silverbell	M/P-S	M, P	N



**For a complete list of trees, shrubs and plants approved for planting on government property; contact the shoreline ranger at 336-921-3390.

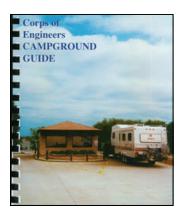




W. KERR SCOTT BOOKSTORE



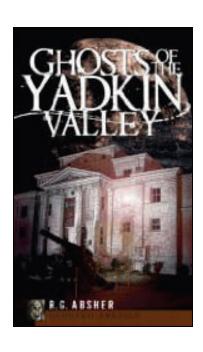


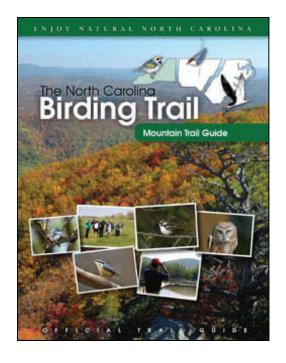


In 2003, Eastern National and W. Kerr Scott teamed up to open a bookstore in the Visitor Assistance Center. The number one seller over the years is the Corps of Engineers Campground Guide. There are a variety of kid's items including: stuffed bears, animal finger puppets, games and coloring sheets.

Most recently, the bookstore began offering popular books about the local area and books by local authors including W. Kerr Scott Ranger. R.G. Absher recently published "Ghosts of the Yadkin River Valley," which is now available in the store. Since W. Kerr Scott Lake has been recognized as part of the North Carolina Birdwatching Trail, a birding DVD is for sale and soon the store will stock the NC Birding Trail Guides.

A portion of the bookstore sales go toward Environmental Education Projects at the lake.





RECOVERY ACT PROJECTS



Example of a campsite at Warrior Creek that will be renovated.



Playground in Fort Hamby Park that was replaced in 2006.

W. Kerr Scott received \$3.6 million for projects around the lake. Some of the projects are as follows:

The complete renovation of Warrior Creek Campground. This includes the renovation of impact campsites and the upgrade to 50-amp service on all electric hookup sites. Replacement of timbers and pea gravel on sites is also scheduled. All shelters in Warrior Creek will be replaced along with the playground.

Paving throughout many park areas.

The remarking of approximately 39 miles of government property and easement boundary lines. The area to be re-marked is from the dam up to White's Creek on Highway 268 West.

An erosion control project near Dam Site Boat Ramp. Almost 500 feet of shoreline is to be stabilized with riprap using guidance from the Shoreline Management Plan.

A water line will be ran from the Visitor Assistance Center to Fish Dam Creek Shelter and Dark Mountain Parks.

The construction of a new bathhouse in Berry Mountain Park.

Replacement of Playgrounds in Bandits Roost, Berry Mountain and Warrior Creek.

MEET OUR STAFF.....



Chad Eller has worked at W. Kerr Scott Lake since October 2000. He now serves as the Interpretative Park Ranger. Ranger Eller is responsible for scheduling and conducting environmental education, water safety and nature programs. Eller is also the lead organizer for National Public Lands Day. If you wish to contact Ranger Eller to schedule educational programs or to sign up to volunteer for NPLD; contact him at 336-921-3390.

2009	Average High	Average Low	Rainfall	Snow	Highest Temp in 2009	Lowest Temp in 2009
January	47	24	3.46			
February	53	27	1.16			
March	58	36	5.66			
April	69	43	3.66			
May	75	56	12.13			
June	85	63	4.28			
July	85	65	2.55			
August	84	66	5.62			

W. Kerr Scott Reservoir is a National Weather Service Observation Station. Temperatures and rainfall have been recorded by the staff since the 1960s. This data is available on the website at: http://www.saw.usace.army.mil/wkscott/index.htm, in the Lake Stats link.

NORTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE NEWS RELEASE

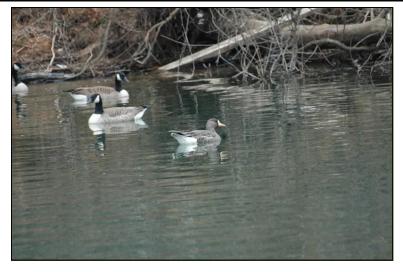
RALEIGH, N.C. (August 31, 2009) -- The N.C Wildlife Resources Commission has set season dates, bag limits and other regulations for the 2009-10 season. Working within mandatory frameworks established by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Commission set the following regulations:

• Conventional bag: Six ducks with no more than 4 scoters, 4 mallards with no more than 2 hen mallards, 3 wood ducks, 2 redheads, 2 scaup, 1 black or mottled duck (season closed until December 1), 1 canvasback, 1 pintail, or 1 fulvous tree duck. The season on harlequin ducks is closed. Possession limits are twice the daily bag limit unless otherwise noted. Hours are one-half hour before sunrise to sunset.

Other limits:

- Fifteen light geese (includes snow & blue geese & Ross' geese), no possession limit
- Two brant
- Five mergansers (two hooded mergansers)
- Fifteen coots
- Five dark geese (includes Canada geese & white-fronted geese) in the Resident Hunt Zone, five in the Southern James Bay Zone and one in the Northeast Hunt Zone.

	Oct. 7-10, Nov. 14 – Dec. 5 and Dec. 19 – Jan. 30 [No black or mottled duck shall be taken until Dec. 1]
Dark Geese (Includes Canada geese & white-fronted geese) To view a map of the goose hunt zones, refer to the Regulations Digest or www.ncwildlife.org	



HUNTING REGULATIONS AT W. KERR SCOTT LAKE

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers allows hunting at W. Kerr Scott Dam & Reservoir on six Wildlife Management Areas (WMA's) which are managed by the North Carolina Wildlife Resource Commission as gamelands. Each area will be managed for purposes of improving game and non-game wildlife habitat as well as forest conservation. The boundary of WMA's located adjacent to recreation areas will be marked with blaze orange signs and flagging; Corps property boundaries will comprise the remaining borders of hunting areas not adjacent to recreation areas. For the 2004-2005 hunting season, the WMA's will be open for small game hunting with shotguns not larger than 10-gauge and .22 rim-fire rifles along with big game archery-only hunting. Regulations pertinent to the use of wildlife management areas are as follows:

- · Vehicles must stay on designated roadways or parking areas.
- No open fires.
- · No camping except in designated park campgrounds only.
- Garbage, trash, and litter must be removed from government property.
- Trees, shrubs, other natural features or constructed facilities such as signs, gates, toilets, etc., must not be disturbed, removed, or altered.
- Personal property abandoned over 24 hours will be impounded.
- No structures (such as deer stands and duck blinds) may be placed on government property without permission of the Operations Manager.
- · No possession or use of alcohol.

To assure hunter safety and adherence to established guidelines, NC Wildlife Enforcement Officers and Corps of Engineers Park Rangers will patrol all WMA's throughout the hunting seasons.

The Corps looks forward to providing yet another excellent recreational opportunity to the residents of the State of North Carolina while also aiding in the common goal of wildlife preservation and management along with natural resource conservation on Federal Lands. Feel free to contact the Visitor Assistance Center (336) 921-3390, any Corps Park Ranger, or your local Wildlife Enforcement Officer for further information. Good luck and safe hunting to all participants.





WATER SAFETY



- Learn to swim. The best thing anyone can do to stay safe in and around the water is to learn to swim. Always swim with a buddy; never swim alone. The American Red Cross has swimming courses for people of any age and swimming ability.
- Swim in areas supervised by a lifeguard.
- Read and obey all rules and posted signs.
- Children or inexperienced swimmers should take precautions, such as wearing a U.S. Coast Guard-approved personal floatation device (PFD) when around the water.
- Watch out for the dangerous "too's" too tired, too cold, too far from safety, too much sun, too much strenuous activity.
- Set water safety rules for the whole family based on swimming abilities (for example, inexperienced swimmers should stay in water less than chest deep).
- Be knowledgeable of the water environment you are in and its potential hazards, such as deep and shallow areas, currents, depth changes, obstructions and where the entry and exit points are located. The more informed you are, the more aware you will be of hazards and safe practices.
- Pay attention to local weather conditions and forecasts. Stop swimming at the first indication of bad weather.
- Use a feet-first entry when entering the water.
- Enter headfirst only when the area is clearly marked for diving and has no obstructions.
- Do not mix alcohol with swimming, diving or boating. Alcohol impairs your judgment, balance, and coordination, affects your swimming and diving skills, and reduces your body's ability to stay warm.
- Know how to prevent, recognize, and respond to emergencies.

TRAIL TIPS FROM BMCC



Leave no trace. Stay on existing trails...don't create new ones. Don't cut switchbacks. When the trailbed is muddy, consider other riding options. Be sure to pack out at least as much as you pack in.

Always yield the trail. Let your fellow trail users know you're coming. Anticipate other trail users around corners or in blind spots. Slow down, establish communication and be prepared to stop if necessary. Trails are used by hikers, trail runners and dogs as well as fellow cyclists.

Ride safely. Know your equipment, your ability, and the area in which you're riding -- and prepare accordingly. Always wear a helmet and appropriate safety gear.

Don't modify or relocate stunts. This can endanger other riders. All trail changes must be approved by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Don't get locked in. If you're riding at Dark Mountain, note what time the dam will close before you park. If you'll be riding after hours, park at the visitor assistance center or in the small lot near the dam gate and ride across the dam and down the hill to the trailhead. The road across W. Kerr Scott Dam closes at 4 p.m. through the winter. After 4:00, the gate will be locked.

Bring plenty to drink. There are no facilities on the trails. Water and flush toilets are located in the W. Kerr Scott Visitor Assistance Center and at Bandits Roost Campground. Mens and ladies latrines are located in the Fish Dam Creek Overlook picnic area near the circle.

Call if you need help. If you need assistance from a ranger, call (336) 921-3390. If you need immediate medical attention, call 911.

Report unsafe trail conditions. If any area of the trail needs attention, please contact BMCC's <u>Matt Adams</u> or <u>Jim Horton</u>.



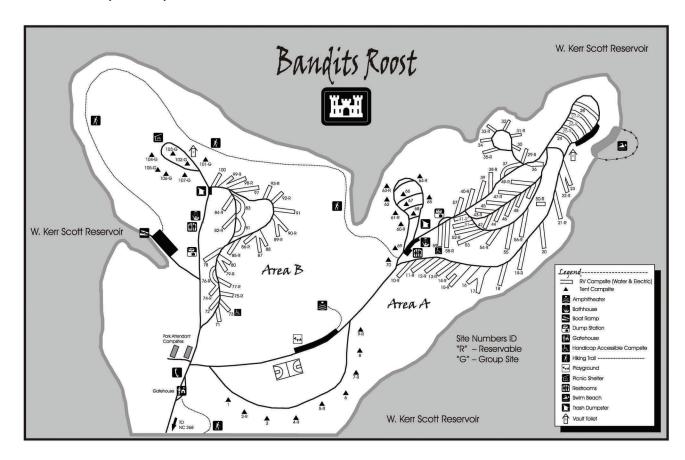


BANDITS ROOST CAMPGROUND





Bandits Roost is the most popular campground at W. Kerr Scott Lake. There are several campsites near the water, which allows campers to moor their boat within sight of their campsite. There is over 100 sites in Bandits Roost, many with electricity and water hookups. In recent years the electric service was upgraded to 100 amp service. There are 50, 30 and 20 amp breakers at each electric hookup site. The recovery act has provided funding for a new facilities including an amphitheater and playground. Plans are in place to plant trees between some of the campsites on National Public Lands Day. If you wish to reserve a campsite at Bandits Roost or the other campgrounds at W. Kerr Scott Lake including Warrior Creek and Fort Hamby Parks, you can visit www.reserveamerica.com or call toll free 877-444-6777.



NATIVE PLANTS AT THE LAKE

Eutrochium fistulosum (Joe Pye Weed)



Eutrochium fistulosum, also called Joe Pye Weed, Trumpetweed or Purple Thoroughwort, is a flowing plant in the family Asteraceae and is native to eastern North American, southeast Canada and throughout the eastern and central United States. It is a herbaceous perennial plant. Joe Pye Weed grows 5 to 10 feet tall and is found in moist, rich soil alongside roads, ditches and marshes. It flowers from mid-summer to the first frost and makes an attractive backdrop in gardens and draws many pollinators including butterflies and bees.

.

EYE ON THE ENVIRONMENT

Eastern small-footed bat (Myotis leibii)



Adult total length: 2 3/4 - 3 3/4 in. (69 - 95 mm)

Tail: 1 - 1 3/4 in. (25 - 45 mm)

• **Hind foot:** 1/4 - 3/8 in. (6 - 8 mm)

• Weight: 1/7 - 1/4 oz. (4 - 8 g)

Physical Characteristics: Bats are unique among mammals because their forelimbs are specialized for true flight. Flight membranes, which are actually extensions of the skin of the back and belly, connect the body with the wings, legs, and tail. Unlike birds, bats use both legs and wings during flight. Other modifications for flight include greatly elongated fingers to provide support for the wing membrane, a keeled sternum for the attachment of the enlarged flight muscles, and fusion of some vertebrae. The membrane extending from the tail to the hind legs is known as the interfemoral membrane. The eastern small-footed bat is the smallest member of the genus Myotis in North America. The fur is long, silky, and tan to golden-brown. The two main distinguishing characteristics are a distinct black mask across the face and the tiny feet that average only approximately 5/16 of an inch (7 to 8 mm) in length. The Eastern Small-Footed bat is found in Wilkes County and is currently on the "Federal Species of Concern" list.

NATIVE AMERICAN POWWOW

About 350 people attended the Native American PowWow September 18 – 20, 2009.

A variety of vendors set up booths with flint knapping, food, and Native American crafts. Native American drummers and dancers performed throughout the weekend.

W. Kerr Scott Rangers made Native American Crafts with 200 kids throughout the event.







Feeding Wildlife

A Vicious Cycle



People feed wildlife to lure the animals closer for photography or because they think the animals are hungry



Wild animals approach people looking for handouts. This leads to conflicts between wildlife and people



Wild animals that rely on human food raid garbage cans and coolers and wander out into the road



Wildlife becomes dependant on people for food and stops looking for natural food. These handouts often have little nutrional value



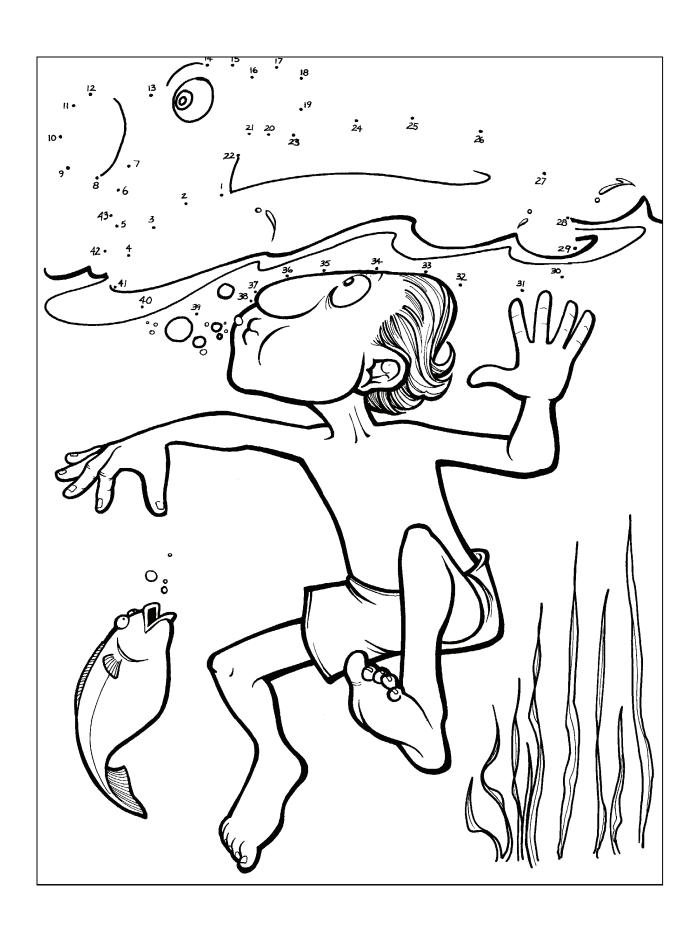
Many wild animals are lured into areas too small to support them.



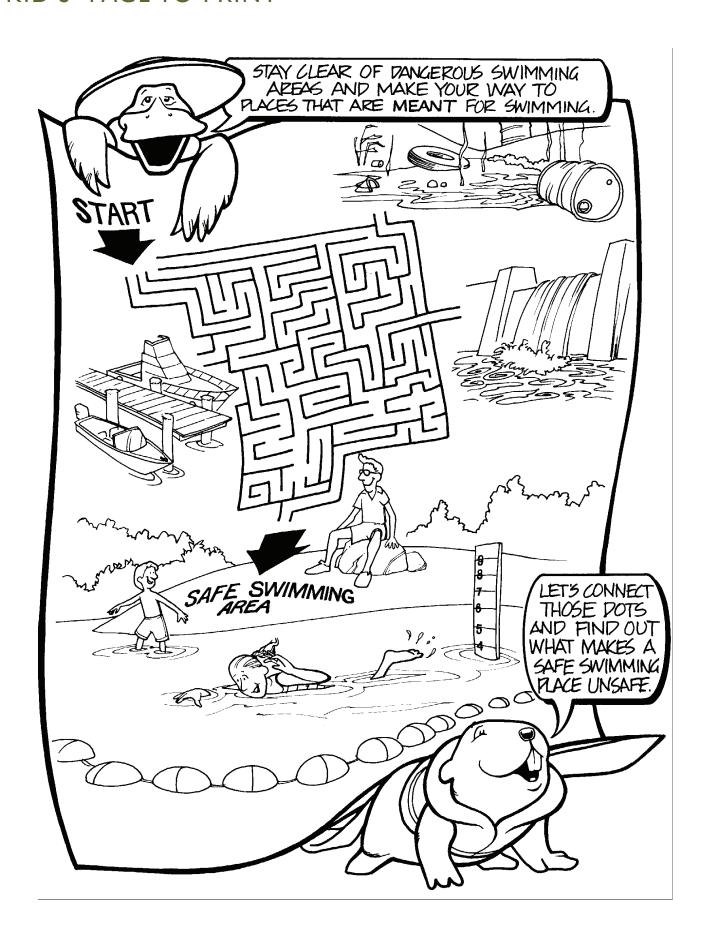
Wild animals overeat the vegetation in the area including shrubs and gardens



KID'S PAGE TO PRINT



KID'S PAGE TO PRINT



LAKE SHOTS











W. Kerr Scott Dam and Reservoir U. S. Army Corps of Engineers 499 Reservoir Road Wilkesboro, NC 28697

Tel: 336-921-3390 Fax: 336-921-2330

E-mail: jory.d.shepherd@usace.army.mil

Calendar of Events

October 1 Rubbish Roundup

October 10 National Public Lands Day

October 15 Warrior Creek Campground Closes

October 15 Rubbish Roundup

October 31 Ft. Hamby & Bandits Roost

Campgrounds Close





Shoreline Watch Program

• If you observe a violation of the Shoreline Management Plan; you can anonymously call or send a letter to the shoreline ranger at:

W. Kerr Scott Lake

Attn: Shoreline Ranger

499 Reservoir Road

Wilkesboro, NC 28697

• You can leave a comment on our webpage at:

http://www.saw.usace.army.mil/wkscott/index.htm

• If you suspect a water quality violation you can report it directly to:

NC Department of Natural Resources

(Water Quality Section)

336-771-5000